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# February @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

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### From the Pastor



When I go to baseball games with my brother, I have often thought that I should bring a big sign with me that says "BROTHER!" just in case the kiss cam focuses on us during the game. I feel the same way about going out to dinner with a friend on Valentine's Day. It's kind of sweet the way we want to help people celebrate their romantic relationships, but love is a little more nuanced than that.

There's the Hallmark and candy and jewelry and flowers commercialization of it that might be kind of fun to get caught up in if one is in sweet circumstances. There are so

many awkward moments that come to mind though. There are folks who are recently bereaved, recently divorced, happily single, or unhappily single, or just plain private about it all. The trouble with a holiday like Valentine's Day is that so many people can get left out.

Here's a love idea that doesn't leave anyone out. God.

1 John 4:16 and following says in part, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; We love because he first loved us. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."

John 13:34 says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

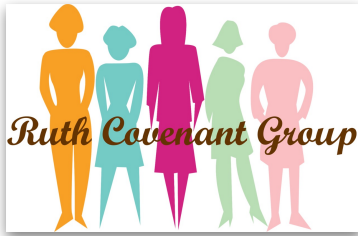
Romans 8:38 says, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

At Bethany, we know what love is. God is love, and God is for all, forever.

Blessings,  
Pastor Deb



## Community Life



The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will meet on Monday, February 24 (note change of date) at 6:30 pm at the church. We will be using the Advent study guide, "Calling All Angels - An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength" by Erin Wathen. Several of us participated in the Advent Study, and there was consensus that it was worth sharing it with the rest of the group. The book is available online, so please consider purchasing one for your study. We will be discussing the introduction and first week of Advent, pages 1 - 34. The meeting will include our usual check-in time, fellowship, refreshments, prayers, and sharing. Pam Matthews and Nancy Crawford will be in town to join us in person. You are most welcome to join in for this wonderful time of sharing. Joining by Zoom is available if you are not able to attend in person. Please let Tamra Hollenbeck know if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation, and we'll send one to you. Many blessings to everyone!

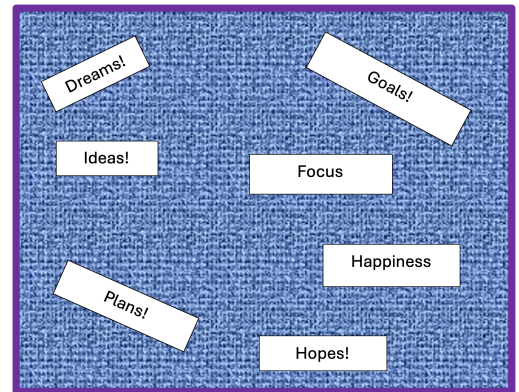
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### Vision Board making

Saturday, February 15, 2025  
Noon – 3:00pm

Come join us for an afternoon of dreaming! Create your own collection of images that represent your dreams, areas of focus, goals, hopes, plans, or just what makes you happy!

If you are familiar with the process, feel free to bring your own supplies or boards or poster paper. We will provide some poster board, markers, glue, scissors, art supplies, and as many old magazines as we can. This is a great activity for any time of decision, change, discernment, for building confidence, for clarifying thoughts, and just for fun! Please join us, and bring a friend!



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### New Address for Jan Howell

Jan Howell has moved up to Washington to live with her son. We loved having her join us for the Thanksgiving Dinner, Advent Festival, and Ruth Covenant Group, and, while we are very sad to say goodbye, we send our best wishes and love as she settles into her new home. She would love cards and greetings from her Bethany friends. This is her new address:

Jan Howell  
P.O. Box 1574  
Oroville, WA 98844  
Cell #509-560-3757  
email: [howelljanice79@gmail.com](mailto:howelljanice79@gmail.com)



### **Birthdays**

5 - Susan Gartner May  
21 - Rina Ranahan  
23 - Fred Matthews  
26 - Beverly Bristow

### **Anniversaries**

27 - Tom and Barbara Jessee

## **THANK YOU!**

For the surprise 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon!

Thank you for the flowers and basket of cards and great food. I am so grateful and happy to be here with such a loving and fun group of hardworking people! Here's to many more years together.

Much love,  
Pastor Deb

## **Community Action**



Ongoing donations to Catholic Worker Hospitality House can be brought to Bethany Church or call Lyn Hughes at 650-867-0667 for pickup.

## **Worship Highlights**

### **Christmas Eve**

Bethany's Christmas Eve service was a blessing for those who attended, filled with joy, special music, Christmas hymn singing, and a time to share the light of Christ. The congregation stayed afterwards for a cookie and hot cider reception. Many thanks to those who brought extra Christmas cookies to share; they were delicious! Thanks to everyone who participated in this wonderful and warm evening as we once again celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter**

Bethany will celebrate the beginning of the Lenten Season with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 5. Plans are being made for the service, so please look for more details as the date approaches.

The first Sunday in Lent will be Sunday, March 9. Lent continues through Palm Sunday on April 13, and Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 20.

## Leadership Meeting Highlights - January 14, 2025

### Reports:

**Clerk of Session:** The new Leadership Group will include both Deacons and Session. There will continue to be a Deacon's Fund, parishes, and other components of the former deacons.

### Pastor:

1. Randy Johansen is on hospice.
2. The Celebration of Life for Beverly Bristow at the National Cemetery was very good. There is a desire to host a community celebration for Bev at Bethany so more people can attend. A sign-up sheet for people who would like to plan such a celebration will be available after church.
3. Annual Reports are due to Cathleen by February 2. They will be available for the congregation on February 16, and the Congregational Meeting will be on February 23.
4. Deb is requesting assistance with the Leadership Retreat that will be held late winter/early spring. A signup sheet will be created to invite others in the congregation to help with the plan also.

### Financial Trustees:

1. Lyn presented an update of 2024 financial details. It shows that we took in more than we spent last year.
2. The budget for 2025 will be ready soon. It will be presented at the congregational meeting.
3. Pledge envelopes are here and available. Pledges have come in pretty strong this year.

4. \$205.25 that was collected from the Peacemaking offering will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the Southern California fires.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Dave is looking for a different company to proceed with solar energy project.

**Community Action:** The congregation provided a huge load of things which were brought over to the shelter at Christmas. Lyn expressed gratitude for the generosity of the congregation in giving gifts.

### Personnel:

1. Jessica Reddell Popovich will be away on Sunday, February 16. George will fill in for music slots and hymn playing.
2. Deb will be away 3/23 for the Westminster Woods Women's Weekend and 4/27 for vacation.

### Worship:

1. Worship committee meetings will be quarterly and as needed. Next meeting will be on February 9th.
2. Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, March 5.

**Other Business:** Something to discuss with Leadership - how to organize the planning for different events at Bethany, including and not limited to Spring Tea, Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Show, Advent Festival, community events, etc.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Tamra Hollenbeck  
Acting Clerk of Session

## Financial Trustees

### Financial Issues:

- In progress: 2025 Budget Completion
- In progress: Replacement of our antiquated electrical panel for maximum efficiency. Next steps: 1) update electrical panel, 2) Decide on solar energy panels/installation. The vendor Dave Wales was originally working with is no longer working with BPC, so Dave is seeking out other vendors, and 3) Install heat pump which includes reviewing vendors.
- In progress: Room 9 clean-up continuation
- In progress: Kitchen update cleanup and cleanout
- In progress: On-line giving opportunities; Pastor Deb is working to move this forward
- Patio repair: On hold for now
- Upper roof repair: On hold for now



## Annual Congregational Meeting and 2024 Annual Report

Bethany will have its annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 23 after worship. The Annual Report for 2024 will be available for the congregation to review beginning February 16, and the Budget for 2025 will be presented at the meeting. Please plan to be present to hear about what Bethany has been up to and where we are heading in the new year.

If you are the chair of a committee, please have your annual report in to Cathleen Torres no later than February 2 so she'll have time to prepare the report. Thanks to all!

### Monthly events at Bethany

**Sundays:** Worship at 10:00 am  
Coffee Hour 11:00 am  
(rehearsals start 8:30 am)

**Wednesdays:** Prayz 5:00 pm  
Chancel Choir 6:30 pm  
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

**Submissions for W@B:** Tuesday mornings.

**Submissions for the March newsletter:**  
Tuesday, February 18

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: Financial Trustees 5:30 pm

Buildings & Grounds,  
Community Action committees  
– as scheduled



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## **Our Purpose Statement**

Bethany's purpose is to provide a nurturing  
and energizing environment to feed the soul  
so we can go out into the world and reflect the glory of God,  
the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

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## **Our Welcoming Statement**

We don't yet know who you are,  
but we do know that you are a dearly beloved child of God,  
and you are already welcome here.  
We invite you, on your unique spiritual journey,  
to join us in the life and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

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### **Bethany Presbyterian Church**

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